November 12, 2014

The Honorable John Boehner  The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House  Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives  U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC  20515  Washington, DC  20515

The Honorable Harry Reid  The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader  Minority Leader
U.S. Senate  U.S. Senate
Washington, DC  20510  Washington, DC  20510

Dear Speaker Boehner, Leader Reid, Leader Pelosi and Leader McConnell:

As members of the Trade Benefits America Coalition, we write to urge passage of bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) legislation this year.

Congressional action on TPA is needed to help ensure high-standard outcomes in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations, which the United States and 11 other Asia-Pacific countries are striving to complete. By passing TPA, Congress will also help ensure strong outcomes in the other ongoing talks on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (T-TIP), the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA), and an agreement to eliminate tariffs on environmental goods. These initiatives hold tremendous potential to: help U.S. companies of all sizes, farmers and workers buy and sell goods and services in the global marketplace; set strong, enforceable trade rules; and support U.S. growth and jobs.

Other countries are completing trade agreements that are opening markets for their companies, farmers and workers and shaping the rules for international trade to their advantage. It is vital that the United States respond by negotiating and implementing high-standard, market-opening trade agreements as soon as possible. History has shown that TPA is a critical tool for helping complete ambitious U.S. trade agreements and getting them passed by Congress. With 95 percent of potential customers outside the United States and more than one in five American jobs supported by trade, we need to seize on opportunities – such as ongoing
and future U.S. trade agreements – to expand U.S. commerce with other countries.

Accordingly, we are eager to work with you, your colleagues in the House and Senate, and the Administration to pass bipartisan TPA legislation before the end of the year.

Sincerely,

3M
Abbott
AbbVie
ACE Limited
Aerospace Industries Association
Aflac
AGCO Corporation
Agriculture Transportation Coalition (AgTC)
The Airforwarders Association
Alcoa Inc.
Alliance for Healthcare Competitiveness
Altec, Inc.
American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA)
American Association of Exporters and Importers (AAEI)
American Business Conference
American Chamber of Commerce in Australia
American Chemistry Council
American Council of Life Insurers

American Farm Bureau Federation
American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA)
American Insurance Association (AIA)
American International Automobile Dealers Association (AIADA)
American Natural Soda Ash Corporation (ANSAC)
American Petroleum Institute
American Soybean Association
Amgen Inc.
Amway
Apple Inc
Applied Materials, Inc.
Archer Daniels Midland Co.
Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM)
Association of Global Automakers
Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry (INDA)
AT&T Inc.
BASF Corporation
Bayer AG
eBay

Emergency Committee for American Trade

Emerson

Express Association of America (EAA)

Exxon Mobil Corporation

EY

Fashion Accessories Shippers Association (FASA)

FedEx Corporation

Florida Ports Council

Footwear Distributors & Retailers of America (FDRA)

Foreign Trade Association

Free Trade Alliance

Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc.

Gap Inc.

General Electric Company

General Mills, Inc.

Global Information Infrastructure Commission

The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.

Grant Thornton LLP

Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce

Hanesbrands, Inc.

Hardwood Plywood and Veneer Association

Herbalife

Hewlett-Packard

The Home Depot

Honda North America, Inc.

Honeywell

IBM Corporation

Illinois District Export Council

Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)

Ingersoll-Rand plc

Intel Corporation

International Dairy Foods Association

International Intellectual Property Alliance

International Paper

International Trade Association of Greater Chicago

ITC Holdings Corp.

Jockey International, Inc

Johnson & Johnson

Juniper Networks

Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association (JPMA)

Kalispell Chamber of Commerce Convention & Visitors Center

KPMG LLP
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company Name</th>
<th>Association Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liberty Mutual Group</td>
<td>National Corn Growers Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lockheed Martin</td>
<td>National District Export Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>LORD Corporation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Los Angeles Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Association</td>
<td>National Foreign Trade Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mattel, Inc.</td>
<td>National Grain and Feed Association</td>
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<td>McGraw Hill Financial</td>
<td>National Milk Producers Federation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medtronic, Inc.</td>
<td>National Oilseed Processors Association (NOPA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merck</td>
<td>National Retail Federation</td>
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<td>MetLife, Inc.</td>
<td>National Small Business Association</td>
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<tr>
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<td>North Alabama International Trade Association (NAITA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael’s Stores</td>
<td>North American Equipment Dealers Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microsoft Corporation</td>
<td>North American Export Grain Association (NAEGA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce</td>
<td>Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI)</td>
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<td>Momentive Performance Materials and Specialty Chemicals</td>
<td>Oracle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mondelēz International</td>
<td>Organization for International Investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montana Chamber of Commerce</td>
<td>PA Chamber of Business and Industry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Motion Picture Association of America</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Personal Care Products Council</td>
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<td>Pfizer Inc</td>
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<td>National Association of Wheat Growers</td>
<td>Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Plastics Industry Trade Association (SPI)</td>
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<td>Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber</td>
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<tr>
<td>PPG Industries</td>
<td>Target Corporation</td>
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<td>The Procter &amp; Gamble Company</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Retail Industry Leaders Association</td>
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<td>UPS</td>
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<td>U.S. Dairy Export Council</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
US-ASEAN Business Council
USA Rice Federation
Vermeer Corporation
Virginia Chamber of Commerce
Virginia-Washington, DC District Export Council
Visa Inc.
Volvo Group North America
Walmart
The Walt Disney Company
Washington Council on International Trade
Western Digital Corporation
Whirlpool Corporation
The Williams Companies
Wine Institute
W.J. Byrnes & Co.
World Trade Center Delaware
Xerox Corporation
Zac Venture